## **Northeast Region Fact Sheet**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Northeast Region (region 5) encompasses 13 states from Maine to Virginia. About 70 million people, nearly a quarter of the nation's population, live within this area where the Service's nearly 1,000 employees work in the regional headquarters, field offices, national wildlife refuges, or fish hatcheries.

Resource Facts and Figures
71 refuges, with 5.8 million visitors annually
25 hatcheries

92 threatened and endangered species and 11 candidates for protection

915 employees

**Regional Demographics** 

13 states

26 U.S. Senators

107 U.S. congressional districts

17 federally recognized tribes

Population (2000 U.S. census): 69,133,382

Regionally: 18 million wildlife watchers; 4.2 million anglers; 2.8 million hunters (2006

national survey)

On region 5 refuges: 5.4 million wildlife watchers; 528,629 anglers; 66,753 hunters

## **Key Habitats and Ecosystems**

Atlantic northern forest, Appalachian Mountains, big rivers, freshwater and salt marshes, coastal plain, estuaries, barrier beaches, coastal islands

## **Conservation Successes and Challenges**

Urbanization and development pressures are a constant in the nation's most densely populated region. The Northeast Region has gained some remarkable conservation achievements using many approaches and working with multiple partners, for example, as the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture has conserved more than 4.6 million acres of migratory bird habitat since 1988. The issues are larger than one entity can address; a model response is the region's 13 states pooling their wildlife grant funds to support high-priority projects that address regional conservation needs, such as regional habitat maps and research on white-nose syndrome in bats.

In this region where migratory fish have faced scores of obstacles to upstream passage for hundred of years, efforts to restore fish passage are showing progress. The 20 paddlefish netted in the Allegheny Reservoir, some exceeding 5 feet in length and weighing 50 pounds or more, are the first adult paddlefish collected in the upper Allegheny River since the late 1800s.

For another species, the Service-led Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture brings together states and private entities to halt the decline of brook trout by restoring its habitat. Of the 17 states currently drafting policy changes and on-the-ground actions to improve water quality and restore brook trout habitat and populations, 12 are in the Northeast Region.

In the Northeast Region, two species, Robbins' cinquefoil and West Virginia northern flying squirrel, have recovered enough to be removed from Endangered Species Act protection in the past six years. For both, recovery came from the Service's working with the U.S. Forest Service and non-government partners to restore and protect the unique habitat each species needed to live. Recovering a species that was headed for extinction is the most rewarding of work.

Regional website address http://www.fws.gov/northeast/